

CLINICAL ENGINEERING

Biomedical Equipment Maintenance

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) basically seeks regulations for ensuring the privacy, security, and administrative simplification of health care information. Both proposed and final regulations, expected this year, will require changes in how we manage and control certain financial, e.g., billing and reimbursement, and patient care information. This includes patient-specific data originating with biomedical equipment, e.g., clinical laboratory and imaging equipment, and subsequently moved electronically for provider use and record storage. Hence, we can expect many changes to our information systems and biomedical equipment inventories.

The goals of the HIPAA are to reduce administrative costs by standardizing financial and administrative data, facilitate electronic transmission of information, and protect the privacy and security of individually identifiable health information. Privacy and security standards will require technical and procedural (security) changes for the use and disclosure of individually identifiable health information. Administrative simplification standards will replace numerous non-standard formats currently in use.

As final regulations are issued, health care activities will have two to three years to implement the standards. The HIPAA provides civil penalties for noncompliance with administrative

simplification standards and both civil and criminal penalties for privacy and security violations.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), in concert with the Military Medical Departments, is watching HIPAA developments closely and will likely publish relevant policy and procedures. The AFMLO will stay tuned to developments associated with biomedical equipment and any other potential impacts on medical logistics operations and will keep you informed.

An excellent HIPAA web site to refer to for additional information is http://www.aha.org/hipaa/hipaa_home.asp. (AFMLO/FOM, Lt Col Larry VanCleave, DSN 343-4032, commercial 301-619-4032, larry.Vancleave@ft-detrick.af.mil.)

Gaining the Defense Occupational Health Readiness System

Attachment 1 provides instructions to be used to gain the Defense Occupational Health Readiness System (DOHRS) audiometer systems to MEDLOG. If additional information is needed, please refer to AFCSM 41-230 or contact TSgt Stephen Walker. (AFMLO/FOM-E, TSgt Stephen Walker, DSN 343-4039, commercial 301-619-4039, stephen.walker@ft-detrick.af.mil)

Facilities Management

Construction Criteria Base Subscriptions

Do you have the latest copy of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines & Checklist for Buildings and Facilities? How about Military Handbook 1191, Medical/Dental Treatment Facility Criteria? These are but two of over 10,000 documents available to Construction Criteria Base (CCB)

subscribers. The CCB is an electronic collection of essential design and construction criteria documents published quarterly by the non-profit National Institute of Building Sciences. Documents in the CCB come directly from 22 federal agencies and over 110 industry organizations. The best part is that it's free! Your office can receive CCB subscriptions at no cost under central purchase agreements. To subscribe, simply visit the CCB web site <https://www.ccb.org/ccbsubscribe/Subsmain.asp> and fill out the online order form. Orders are normally processed and shipped within a week. (AFMLO/FOM-F, Capt Stephan Klimek, DSN 343-2117, commercial 301-619-2117, stephan.klimek@ft-detrick.af.mil)

Quality Assurance

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Recalls/Alert Notices

Attachment 2, paragraph 1, provides information on FDA medical equipment recalls and alerts. Personnel from clinical engineering, biomedical equipment maintenance, quality assurance, and safety should follow the guidance provided to ensure the effective maintenance and management of medical equipment. (AFMLO/FOM-E, Capt P.J. Toth, DSN 343-7445, commercial 301-619-7445, paul.toth@ft-detrick.af.mil)

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